

### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A circuit board comprising a mechanism for  
2 provably disabling the circuit board, the mechanism comprising:  
signal means for conducting a signal between the mechanism and the circuit  
4 board; ~~and~~  
separation means for facilitating detachment of the mechanism from the circuit  
6 board; and  
identification means for identifying the mechanism;  
8 wherein the circuit board becomes at least partly non-functional if the mechanism  
is detached from the circuit board.

2. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said signal means  
2 comprises a wire trace.

3. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said separation means  
2 comprises one or more gaps between the mechanism and the circuit board.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The circuit board of claim 4, wherein said identification  
2 means comprises an identification circuit.

6. (Original) The circuit board of claim 4, wherein said identification  
2 means comprises a visible identification code.

7. (Original) The circuit board of claim 4, wherein said identification  
2 means is protected from being easily manipulated.

8. (Currently Amended) In an electronic assembly, a mechanism for  
2 at least partially disabling the electronic assembly, the mechanism comprising:

4 a segment of the electronic assembly configured to be detachable from the  
electronic assembly;  
one or more signal conductors configured to carry one or more signals between  
6 the mechanism and the electronic assembly; and  
an identification configured to identify the electronic assembly;  
8 wherein said signal conductor is broken when said segment is detached from the  
electronic assembly.

9. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein said identification  
2 comprises an electronic identification module having a programmed identification code.

10. (Original) The mechanism of claim 9, wherein said identification code  
2 is readable only after said one or more signal conductors are severed.

11. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein said identification is  
2 protected from being manipulated.

12. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein said identification is  
2 encapsulated to prevent easy removal of said identification.

13. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein the mechanism is  
2 bordered by one or more gaps separating the mechanism from the electronic assembly.

14. (Original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein the electronic  
2 assembly is a circuit board, and said segment comprises a segment of the circuit board  
bordering an edge of the circuit board.

15. (Original) The mechanism of claim 14, wherein the edge of the circuit  
2 board is an external edge of the circuit board.

16. (Original) The mechanism of claim 14, wherein the edge of the circuit

2 board is an internal edge defined by a bore through the circuit board.

2 17. (Withdrawn) A mechanism for disabling an electronic assembly,  
2 comprising:  
a portion of the electronic assembly detachable from the assembly; and  
4 within said portion, a signal conduit configured to carry a signal;  
wherein the electronic assembly is operable while said portion is attached to the  
6 assembly; and  
wherein one or more functions of the electronic assembly become inoperable  
8 when said portion is detached from the assembly.

2 18. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 17, further comprising an  
2 identification module.

2 19. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification  
2 module is configured to prevent manipulation of said identification module.

2 20. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification  
2 module comprises a programmed identification code.

2 21. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification  
2 module comprises a barcode.

2 22. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification  
2 module comprises a hologram.

2 23. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said identification  
2 module comprises a serial number.

2 24. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 17, wherein said portion and the  
2 assembly are coplanar.

25. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 17, wherein the mechanism  
2 further comprises one or more gaps between said portion and the assembly.

26. (Withdrawn) The mechanism of claim 17, wherein a plane of said  
2 portion is aligned at an angle to a plane of the assembly during normal operation of the  
electronic assembly.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of ensuring the disablement of an electronic  
2 assembly, comprising:  
receiving an electronic assembly for disablement, the electronic assembly  
4 comprising a detachable key, said key comprising:  
a signal conductor configured to convey a signal between said key and the  
6 electronic assembly;  
detaching said key from the electronic assembly; and  
8 proffering evidence that said key has been detached.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said proffering comprises  
2 proffering said key.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said key further  
2 comprises:  
an identification code.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein said proffering comprises  
2 proffering said identification code.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein said identification code is  
2 one of: a barcode, a serial number and a hologram.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein said identification code is

2 a code programmed into an electronic identification module.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said detaching comprises:  
2 severing said signal conductor.